

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Winter 1987   Volume 57   Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Photo by T. H. Kent

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *IOWA BIRD LIFE* and *I.O.U. NEWS* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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29-31 May 1987, Sioux City

**FIELD REPORTS:** Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)—3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

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Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January

For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-622-3353

The birdline is a two to three minute recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report your recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Carl Bendorf checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*—send self-addressed stamped envelope to the Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* for order form.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto NWR, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa.

## MEET AN IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST: PHILIP A. DUMONT

JAMES J. DINSMORE

Philip A. DuMont is one of the most senior members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, although he has not been a resident of Iowa for over 50 years. Phil was born in Rochester, Minnesota, but soon moved to Davenport. Then his family moved to Des Moines where Phil spent most of his boyhood. He recalls that his interest in birds was kindled by his minister and scoutmaster in 1916, an interest that has continued ever since. An early birding companion, Kenny Nelson, was later an officer in the I.O.U. After high school, Phil attended Drake University, graduating in 1926 with a degree in biology. At Drake, he worked with Dr. Luther Ross, for whom he led field trips in a bird study class. After graduation, he studied recreation leadership in New York for a year. After that he was employed by the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The museum's staff included Frank Chapman (founder of *Bird Lore* magazine now *Audubon Magazine* and *American Birds*), Ludlow Griscom, Robert Cushman Murphy, and other world-renowned figures in ornithology. Phil worked for the museum until 1931, during which time he spent sixteen months doing field work in Madagascar. The Madagascar expedition, sponsored by museums from New York, London, and Paris, involved the study of birds and mammals, many of which were relatively unknown.

Late in 1931, Phil returned to Des Moines and finished work on the *Birds of Polk County Iowa*, a 72-page annotated checklist published by the Des Moines Audubon Society in 1931. At the same time, he began work on a publication covering the birds of Iowa. The first part of 1932 was spent in graduate study at the University of California at Berkeley studying under Dr. Joseph Grinnell, a leading figure in ornithology. Phil's thesis was to be on the ecological distribution of shorebirds of San Francisco Bay, but it was never completed. He returned to Iowa in the fall of 1932, where Homer Dill offered him a part-time job rearranging the 9,000 birds in the University of Iowa collection to conform to *The A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds, Fourth Edition*. He spent the fall of 1932 and much of 1933 collecting data and completing his monograph *A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa* (University of Iowa Studies in Natural History, volume 15, number 5, 1933). Phil visited 23 Iowa bird collections while gathering data for the book. Many of the collections were private or housed in small colleges and schools, and are no longer available. His notes on many of these specimens are the only record left, since many of the specimens have been destroyed or lost.

Phil visited all 99 counties while gathering data for his book. One trip took him to Marshalltown to visit the Gabrielson collection at the local library. (Ira N. Gabrielson, a native of Sioux Rapids, taught high school at Marshalltown from 1917 to 1919, and was later the first director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.) Phil asked the librarian about the collection of 296 birds and received a quick answer, "Yes, don't you want them?" Phil was able to relieve the librarian of the task of caring for the stuffed birds by arranging their transfer to the University of Iowa.

In the fall of 1933, Phil returned to Des Moines, where he stopped to visit Jay N. (Ding) Darling, a two-time Pulitzer-winning cartoonist and an old friend. When Phil told Darling that he was looking for a job, Darling thought a minute and told Phil

that he was hired. Darling paid Phil's salary for a few months until he was hired by the State Fish and Game Commission as the wildlife management biologist for the northern half of Iowa. Phil and Logan Bennett, who had the same position for the southern half of the state, were to seek out marshes and ponds that had dried up during the dusk bowl years and evaluate them as wildlife areas. Soon the State Planning Board provided funds to hire ten people to expand the work in this area. Included were active I.O.U. members W. F. Kubichek, Walter Bennett, and William Youngworth. Some of the first areas identified by Phil included Dewey's Pasture and Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Phil continued this work into 1935, when he accepted federal employment.

On 4 June 1935, Phil reported to work as a biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon. He returned to Iowa in December 1935 to marry Jean Guthrie, a daughter of Joseph E. Guthrie, a zoology professor at Iowa State University who taught bird study and had died in April 1935. After seven months in Oregon, Phil became the first manager at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern South Dakota. In 1939, Phil moved to Washington, D.C., as Administrative Assistant to the Chief of the refuge system. Later he became Chief of the Branch of Interpretation of the Fish and Wildlife Service. His responsibilities included the production of leaflets, bird and mammal lists, and other brochures for the refuge system. He produced about 600 of these publications. In 1972, Phil retired, but continued to live in Washington, D.C., until 1986, when he and his wife moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The DuMonts have three daughters and a son, Paul, who ranks among the top North American birders with 765 species.

Phil has been interested in birds for over 70 years and has carried out field work in all 50 states, Central America, the West Indies, South America, Europe, and Africa. In addition to his interest in birds, Phil is also an authority on day lilies, having chaired the National Capital Day Lily Show in Washington, D.C., for 16 years. His daughters share this interest.

About 70 of Phil's 200 published articles pertain to Iowa. Most of these were written between 1929 and 1936. His major work on Iowa birds, *A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa*, was the second comprehensive work on Iowa birds. (The first was "The birds of Iowa" written in 1907 by Rudolph M. Anderson, *Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Science* 11:125-417.) Phil's work was based on personal experience, review of specimen collections, and communication with experts of the time. *Iowa Bird Life* was in its infancy, and there were no "field reports" as exist today. Phil bridged the transition from collectors to field observers. Unlike Anderson, Phil attempted to weed out records that were not well substantiated.

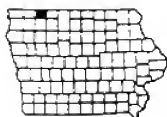
Phil's other writings on Iowa birds include detailed accounts of the specimens that he examined. As was the fashion of the time, he was interested in subspecies. He collected subspecies of Horned Larks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Savannah Sparrows. He published a long paper on nesting birds of Iowa and later produced updates of this list.

Phil DuMont, at age 83, was the featured speaker at the 1986 fall meeting of the I.O.U. in Waterloo, where he shared his past experiences with Iowa birding. In the field the next morning he demonstrated his sharp eyes and ears and provided tips on identification. Birding and ornithology in Iowa is richer because of the contributions of Phil DuMont.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010.

# BIRDING KETTLESON HOGSBACK

DOUGLAS C. HARR

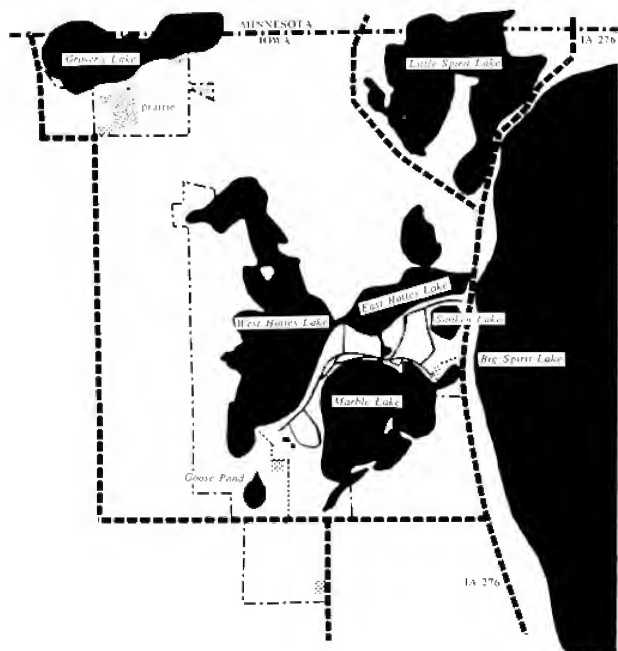


Kettleson Hogsback Wildlife Management Area, or simply "the Hogsback," encompasses three state-owned tracts that lie west of Big Spirit Lake in northern Dickinson County. The larger southern part (981 acres) contains the headquarters and five water areas: East and West Hottes (Ho'-tiss) Lakes, Sunken Lake, Marble Lake, and the Goose Pond. The ridge leading to the headquarters is the "hogsback." The original owner of this land was Kettleson. The smaller tract to the northwest (231 acres) contains Grover's Lake, and the tract to the northeast (214 acres) is Little Spirit Lake. Proposed acquisitions of 1,400 acres would connect these areas.

The 920 acres of shallow marsh and open lakes of this hilly, glaciated landscape provide typical water bird habitat for this area of the state. Nesting species of special interest include Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canvasback, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, Osprey, and Bald Eagle are seen in migration. Some pelicans linger through the summer. Interspersed among the water areas are 180 acres of woodland, 23 acres of native prairie, 75 acres of cropland, and 225 acres of brush, hedgerow, idle haylands, and other upland habitat. These areas attract migrant and nesting flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows, and finches, making this one of the best all-around birding areas in this part of the state. Sedge Wren, Savannah Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow nest in the area. Unusual migrant land birds have included Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak (possibly nesting), and Henslow's Sparrow. Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak are encountered in most winters.

The Hogsback headquarters area can be reached by going north on Iowa highway 276 from the town of Spirit Lake. Two miles from the town of Spirit Lake. Two miles from the T intersection at the south end of Big Spirit Lake, take a county road west from highway 276 for 1 mile, then turn north for one-half mile on the headquarters road. Maps and information are available. Resident geese are best viewed on Goose Pond from the county road just past the entrance to the headquarters road. The marshy areas of West Hottes Lake can be seen in the distance from the entrance road. Past the headquarters site, the road goes west to a dead end and canoe access at the south end of West Hottes Lake. Nesting water birds are best seen by canoeing north from here. North and east from the headquarters there are three miles of woodland trails. This area is particularly good for migrant passerines. South and southeast of the headquarters are numerous hedgerow plantings dividing the idle grasslands and crop fields. There are no maintained trails through most of this habitat, but the lengthy edges provide good viewing of sparrows and other passerines. The abandoned, hilly pasture land on of the west side of West Hottes Lake is good for migrant shorebirds in spring. There are no maintained trails or access roads, and a long hike is required to reach this area.

Grover's Lake is one mile west and two miles north from the entrance to the headquarters. This is another good spot for some migrant shorebirds. Waves of Lesser Golden-Plover are frequently seen passing here in spring. The area's main tracts of native prairie are located here, providing substantial habitat for many upland



nesters. A parking lot is located south of Grover's Lake where the road turns west. A walk of 200 yards to the northeast will reach the major prairie and provide a view of the lake. One quarter mile further north is a large ash swamp with numerous nesting Wood Ducks. A small woodlot also lies along the lake's south shore.

Marble Lake and East Hottes Lake are located west of highway 276 and are best reached from a parking lot along the highway. Although there are some nesting water birds on these bodies of water, the birding is not as productive as on West Hottes Lake. The Marble Lake parking lot provides an alternate access to the woodland hiking trails.

Little Spirit Lake is one-half mile north of the access to Marble Lake on highway 276. This is a sovereign lake with no state-owned uplands, and has only an unimproved canoe launch site along highway 276. The gravel road going northwest from the lake's south end frequently yields pelican sightings from spring through fall. Migrant eagles can be seen in timber along the shore lines.

The area's Giant Canada Goose population is a major visitor attraction, especially in fall when migrants boost the local count to over 6,000 birds. The Hogsback lies in the center of a 36 square mile Canada Goose refuge. West Hottes Lake is an especially popular fall waterfowl hunting area. Deer hunters frequent the woodlands in fall and early winter. Other portions of the area are popular for other kinds of hunting and trapping. Birders should wear bright clothes during hunting season.

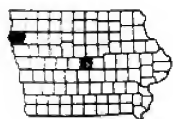
The local Audubon Society brochure lists 238 species for the area; 12 more have been added recently. The variety of habitat in the Hogsback usually provides a couple of new species each year.

*Box 65, Larchwood, IA 51241*



# TWO TELEVISION TOWER KILLS IN IOWA

STEVE DINSMORE, ERIK MUNSON, JAMES J. DINSMORE,  
GARY M. NELSON



On the weekend of 21-22 September 1985, large numbers of migrating birds were found dead at television towers near Alleman and Hinton, Iowa. Although similar kills have been reported before at Alleman (Mosman 1975, Dinsmore et al. 1983), we are not aware of any such kills elsewhere in Iowa. This report compares the birds found at these two sites, which are about 200 miles apart. The species composition of these two kills are also compared with other Midwest tower kills. In addition, we compared the weight of adults and immatures found at the Alleman towers.

## RESULTS

*The Towers.* The Alleman towers, which reach a height of about 2,000 feet, are located on flat, featureless agricultural land, one mile south of Alleman in Polk County. There is nothing to suggest a migration corridor. The Hinton tower is located on top of a hill in the loess hills, three miles southeast of Hinton in Plymouth County. The deeply eroded valleys of the surrounding land provide some natural pathways that migrating birds might follow. The broad Missouri and Big Sioux river valleys that lie 15 miles to the west may provide a migratory pathway.

*The Weather (based on data provided by Elwynn Taylor, Extension Climatologist, Iowa State University).* The weather in Iowa throughout the weekend of 21-22 September was overcast with about 1.5 inches of rainfall. A low pressure front moved across Iowa on 20 September and stalled just east of the state. Winds behind this front generally were strong and from the northwest, providing ideal conditions for migration. A second low front entered Iowa early on 22 September and eventually joined the first front. Winds ahead of the second front were from the south and east. The combination of trailing winds and low cloud cover, especially on the night of 20-21 September, probably influenced the number of migrants that struck these two towers. Other observers (Kent and Bendorf 1985) noted that a major migration of small birds was underway that weekend. Paul Martsching, who has monitored warbler migration for several years in Ames daily in both spring and fall, reported that he had never seen as many warblers as he did on the morning of 22 September (personal communication). The head winds that migrants would have encountered due to the second front probably account for the large number of grounded birds.

*Collection and Identification of Specimens.* On 21 September S. Dinsmore and Munson picked up 388 dead birds from beneath the two northernmost towers in the three-tower complex near Alleman in northern Polk County. On the next day, S. Dinsmore picked up an additional 127 birds beneath these two towers. Two previous reports of tower kills were of birds picked up beneath these same two towers (Mosman 1975, Dinsmore et al. 1983). The search was limited to the ground beneath the towers and did not include the roof of a building or surrounding cropland.

The birds were identified, bagged, and frozen each day. They were all weighted to the nearest 0.1 g within 5 days. Ages were determined later by splitting the scalp to

Table 1. Species Found at Alleman and Hinton TV Towers

Species	Hinton	Alleman	(Adult/Immature)
Yellow Rail	0	1	(0/1)
Sora	3	4	(1/3)
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	1	(0/1)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	(0/1)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	4	(0/4)
Empidonax species	2	0	
House Wren	3	4	(2/2)
Marsh Wren	4	2	(1/1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	1	(0/1)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	1	(1/0)
Swainson's Thrush	6	15	(7/8)
Gray Catbird	1	32	(12/19)*
Brown Thrasher	0	1	(0/1)
Solitary Vireo	19	17	(7/10)
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	5	(2/3)
Warbling Vireo	1	1	(1/0)
Philadelphia Vireo	6	18	(3/15)
Red-eyed Vireo	35	67	(22/45)
Golden-winged Warbler	0	2	(1/1)
Tennessee Warbler	12	14	(5/9)
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1	(0/1)
Nashville Warbler	228	38	(23/15)
Northern Parula	4	1	(1/0)
Yellow Warbler	3	0	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15	21	(11/10)
Magnolia Warbler	4	21	(5/16)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	1	(0/1)
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	0	
Blackburnian Warbler	1	3	(1/2)
Palm Warbler	1	1	(1/0)
Bay-breasted Warbler	10	16	(7/9)
Black-and-white Warbler	13	25	(16/8)*
American Redstart	2	13	(7/6)
Ovenbird	27	110	(69/41)
Northern Waterthrush	1	17	(8/9)
Mourning Warbler	6	8	(3/5)
Common Yellowthroat	14	36	(16/20)
Wilson's Warbler	8	2	(0/2)
Canada Warbler	2	4	(4/0)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	2	(2/0)
Dickcissel	0	2	(0/2)
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	0	
Lincoln's Sparrow	9	0	
Bobolink	0	2	(1/1)
Orchard Oriole	1	0	
Northern Oriole	1	0	
TOTAL	469	515	(240/273)

\* Age not determined for one.

view the degree of skull ossification. Adults have fully ossified skulls; immatures have unossified windows that can be seen.

The Hinton birds were discovered on 21 September, but none were collected until the next day, when Steve Jauron of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources collected 469 birds in 20 minutes. They were bagged and frozen. Eventually, they were given to Nelson and were identified in January 1986. Because so much time had elapsed, weights were not taken. Jauron estimated that at least 2,000 birds died at

Hinton; thus, those he collected represented a relatively small proportion of the birds killed at that tower.

Six specimens of *Oporornis* warblers were sent to Robert M. Mengel of the University of Kansas for identification. He found them all to be Mourning Warblers.

*Species Found.* There were 515 birds of 39 species from the Alleman towers and 469 birds of 38 species from the Hinton tower (Table 1). Overall, 46 species plus several unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers were found. The two best represented groups of birds were warblers with 21 species and vireos with 5 species. Warblers comprised 65 and 76 percent and vireos 21 and 13 percent of the birds at the Alleman and Hinton towers, respectively. The three most abundant species found at each site were the same (Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler), although their relative abundance varied at the two sites. Nashville Warblers accounted for 49 percent of the birds at Hinton. Overall, the composition of the kills at the two sites was similar. Of the species found at Alleman, 79 percent were also found at Hinton, while 82 percent of the species found at Hinton were also found at Alleman (Table 2). The biggest difference between the two kills was the presence of three species of sparrows at Hinton and none at Alleman. The rarest birds were a Yellow Rail at Alleman on 21 September and an Orchard Oriole at Hinton on 22 September (a record late date for Iowa).

*Weights of Immatures and Adults.* At Alleman 53 percent of the birds were immature. The ages and weights for 15 species of which at least 10 individuals were found are presented in Table 3. Immatures outnumbered adults for 10 of the 15 species. Immatures tended to weigh more than adults; the mean weight was significantly different for three species.

## DISCUSSION

Table 2 compares the results of this study with those of nine other tower kills from the upper Midwest that occurred from mid- to late September and involved at least 25 species and 200 birds. In general, the 1985 kills had similar species composition to those previously reported. The percentage of species that these other kills shared with the Alleman and Hinton kills ranged from 60 to 78 percent, indicating that many species are consistently found at most of these kills. Eleven species were found at all 11 kills (Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat) and eight species were found at all but one kill (Sora, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak). Of the 73 species found at these kills, 10 species accounted for 67 percent of the 6,143 birds found. Ovenbird was the most frequent species (13%), followed by Tennessee Warbler (10%), Red-eyed Vireo (8%), and Magnolia Warbler (7%).

Tower kills give only an instant picture of the migration occurring at the time of the kill and are subject to considerable bias. The species found at tower kills are nighttime migrants. Presumably, factors such as height of flight and how individual species respond to overcast conditions or to the tower itself would determine which species are killed at the tower. Likewise, the timing of migration affects the species that are killed. Early migrants, such as Northern Oriole and Scarlet Tanager, and late migrants, such as wrens, kinglets, Palm Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, were relatively rare at these tower kills.

Table 2. Comparison of Upper Midwest Fall Tower Kills

Ref	Location	Date	Birds	Species	Shared with	
					Alleman 1985	Hinton 1985
1	Alleman, IA	14 Sep 1982	365	33	23 (70%)	25 (76%)
2	Springfield, IL	17 Sep 1958	827	38	25 (65%)	23 (61%)
3	Columbia, MO	20 Sep 1966	618	32	23 (72%)	22 (69%)
	Alleman, IA	21-22 Sep 1985	515	39	-	31 (79%)
	Hinton, IA	21-22 Sep 1985	469	38	31 (82%)	-
4	Argenta, IL	27 Sep 1972	807	50	36 (72%)	33 (66%)
4	Monticello, IL	27 Sep 1972	992	50	34 (68%)	30 (60%)
4	Springfield, IL	27 Sep 1972	391	44	32 (73%)	31 (70%)
4	Fithian, IL	27 Sep 1972	634	42	29 (69%)	29 (69%)
4	Gibson City, IL	27 Sep 1972	206	27	21 (78%)	20 (74%)
4	Springfield, IL	29 Sep 1972	319	44	32 (73%)	28 (64%)

1. Dinsmore et al. 1983; 2. Parmalee and Parmalee 1959;

3. Elder and Hansen 1967; 4. Seets and Bohlen 1977

Table 3. Mean Weights of Adults and Immatures at Alleman Towers

Species	Adults			Immatures		
	No.	g	(S.D.)	No.	g	(S.D.)
Swainson's Thrush	7	32.6	(2.79)	8	32.9	(2.76)
Gray Catbird	12	39.4	(2.15)	19	39.7	(2.89)
Solitary Vireo	7	17.0	(2.76)	10	17.1	(1.30)
Philadelphia Vireo	3	12.3	(0.59)	*	15	13.6 (0.99)
Red-eyed Vireo	22	19.3	(1.78)	*	45	21.1 (2.55)
Tennessee Warbler	5	10.9	(0.96)	9	11.7	(1.57)
Nashville Warbler	23	9.6	(1.11)	15	10.4	(1.22)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	11	10.6	(0.58)	10	11.0	(1.03)
Magnolia Warbler	5	8.9	(0.55)	*	16	9.6 (0.58)
Bay-breasted Warbler	7	13.8	(0.77)	9	13.4	(1.47)
Black-and-white Warbler	16	10.7	(1.00)	8	12.0	(1.82)
American Redstart	7	8.6	(1.15)	6	8.6	(0.78)
Ovenbird	69	21.3	(1.96)	41	21.5	(2.46)
Northern Waterthrush	8	21.8	(2.99)	9	23.3	(2.92)
Common Yellowthroat	16	11.7	(1.29)	20	11.2	(1.13)

\* significant difference,  $p < 0.05$

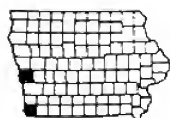
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# ROSS' GOOSE IN SOUTHWEST IOWA

CARL PRIEBE



I remember it as though it were yesterday, although the moment occurred 17 years ago in northcentral Iowa. The Snow Geese flew over against a background of brilliant blue sky. There, toward one end of the flock, were two adult Ross' Geese, the first I had ever seen. I hurried to get my father, but, of course, the flock was gone before he got out to look. About an hour later, another flock of Snow Geese passed, and to my amazement, it contained four Ross' Geese. Fortunately, I was able to get my father out in time to see them; otherwise, he probably would not have believed me. So it is with Ross' Goose.

Each spring and fall these "miniature snow geese" pass through Iowa. A few avid bird watchers claim sightings during peak migratory periods, but many waterfowl enthusiasts secretly doubt these sightings, just as my father had doubted mine. After all, how many Snow Geese must one see before one Ross' Goose materializes in the flocks?

Ross' Geese are predominantly birds of western North America, but they have been found breeding in Snow Goose colonies along Hudson Bay (Johnsgard 1973, Palmer 1976). At De Soto National Wildlife Refuge, on the Iowa/Nebraska border, Ross' Geese were estimated to comprise 0.083 percent of the goose population in 1968 and 0.086 percent in 1969 (Prevett and MacInnes 1972). Percentages were calculated from Ross' Goose observations in ground counts of Snow Geese. In 1981, the observations of Ross' Geese were noted to change during the season (Frederick and Johnson 1983); the peak of 555 birds on 14-15 November represented 0.38 percent of the goose population. There are no published data on the frequency of Ross' Goose in Iowa during the spring migration. Susan Davis, a graduate student at Iowa State University studying Snow Goose behavior, has noted increased numbers of Ross' Geese late in the goose migration period—after the middle of March (personal communication).

I present here additional data on the frequency of Ross' Goose in the fall in southwest Iowa that was obtained from the records of geese taken at hunting blinds at Riverton Area, Forney Lake, and De Soto National Wildlife Refuge. All hunters at these controlled areas must report to checking stations before and after hunting. All of the birds that are bagged in these areas are identified and recorded. Conversations with hunters who have bagged Ross' Geese indicate that they rarely distinguished these birds from Snow Geese on the wing, supporting the assumption that the sample taken by hunters is representative of the total population.

The numbers of Snow and Ross' Geese taken at the three areas from 1972 through 1985 are shown in Table 1. There is no significant correlation between the numbers of Snow and Ross' Geese from year to year ( $r = 0.09$ ,  $p = 0.75$ ). The percentage of Ross' Geese varied from 0 (several years at each area) to 0.91 (at Riverton Area in 1985) with an overall average of 0.14 percent. The percentage is higher than that found by Prevett and MacInnes (1972), probably due to differences in sampling techniques. If the bag numbers reflect the total population, the number of Ross' Geese migrating through Iowa is variable.

Table 1. Snow and Ross' Geese Taken at Riverton Area,  
Forney Lake, and De Soto National Wildlife Refuge, 1972-1985

Year	Riverton		Forney		De Soto		Total	
	Snow	Ross'	Snow	Ross'	Snow	Ross'	Snow	Ross'
1972	836	0	755	2	*	*	1,591	2
1973	1,687	0	1,446	1	*	*	3,133	1
1974	1,234	2	1,251	2	263	0	2,748	4
1975	1,484	0	1,141	0	330	0	2,955	0
1976	232	0	294	1	97	0	623	1
1977	793	2	710	2	282	1	1,785	5
1978	591	0	542	0	159	0	1,292	0
1979	1,501	0	1,025	0	487	0	3,013	0
1980	758	2	429	0	284	0	1,471	2
1981	557	0	772	2	552	0	1,881	2
1982	1,540	0	104	0	554	1	2,198	1
1983	948	4	475	2	302	0	1,725	6
1984	1,464	7	558	5	656	0	2,678	12
1985	109	1	1,016	2	147	0	1,272	3
Total	13,734	18	10,518	19	4,113	2	28,365	39
% Ross'		.13		.19		.05		.14

\* controlled hunting began in 1974

It is exciting to see a Ross' Goose in Iowa. Patience and persistent effort are needed, however, to find the few birds of this species that are hidden among the thousands of Snow Geese.

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# MOST WANTED IOWA BIRDS

THOMAS H. KENT

Members were invited to rank their 10 most-wanted species for the state. The 34 respondents listed a total of 130 species. The most wanted species, Prairie Falcon, got 10 votes and received a high ranking (mean rank of 2.4 on the list of 10). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher also received 10 votes, but was ranked lower (6.7). Species receiving three or more votes are listed below along with the mean rank by those voting for the species.

- 10 votes: Prairie Falcon (2.4); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (6.7).
- 9 votes: Chestnut-collared Longspur (5.5); Ferruginous Hawk (6.3)
- 8 votes: Henslow's Sparrow (6.1)
- 7 votes: Snowy Owl (2.6); Yellow Rail (4.5); Say's Phoebe (5.5); Black-legged Kittiwake (7.1)
- 6 votes: Lark bunting (4.2); Smith's Longspur (5.2); Common Barn-Owl (5.6); Townsend's Solitaire (6.0); Whimbrel (6.8)
- 5 votes: Sandhill Crane (3.2); Short-eared Owl (4.2); Bohemian Waxwing (4.6); Clark's Grebe (5.2)
- 4 votes: Connecticut Warbler (2.5); Black-throated Blue Warbler (3.7); King Rail (4.0); Blue Grosbeak (5.0); Prothonotary Warbler (7.0); Burrowing Owl (7.5); Mississippi Kite (8.0); Great Gray Owl (8.5)
- 3 votes: Alder Flycatcher (2.3); Northern Saw-whet Owl (2.6); Prairie Warbler (3.0); Cape May Warbler (3.6); Cerulean Warbler (4.34); Pileated Woodpecker (5.0); Varied Thrush (5.3); Hooded Warbler (5.6); Red Knot (6.6); White-winged Crossbill (6.6); Vermilion Flycatcher (8.6); Black-billed Magpie (9.3).

Species that received one or two votes generally were either more common species or very rare species. Of the species listed above, the one that should be easiest to find anywhere in the state is Alder Flycatcher, a bird that moves through the state in the last half of May and first week in June and must be identified by song. Short-eared Owl should also be present across the state where it can be found over grassy fields at dusk during the winter.

Eastern Iowa birds that can readily be found in the appropriate locations include Prothonotary Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Pileated Woodpecker; those that are more difficult to find or are only seen in migration include Black-throated Blue Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. In western Iowa, Blue Grosbeak is easy to find in the Missouri River valley. With extensive effort and luck, Prairie Falcon and Lark Bunting might also be found in western Iowa, but Say's Phoebe has not been found there in the last few years.

Information about very local summer residents, such as Henslow's Sparrow, Common Barn-Owl, Burrowing Owl, King Rail, Prairie Warbler, and Hooded Warbler, is sometimes available from the Birdline. Rare winter residents that might be found with help from the Birdline include Snowy Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Varied Thrush, and White-winged Crossbill.

Other species that can be found with diligent effort in the appropriate habitat at the right time include Yellow Rail, Smith's Longspur, and Connecticut Warbler.

The remaining species are very rare migrants. Those that are most likely to remain in one place long enough for Birdline information to be of value include Black-legged Kittiwake, Clark's Grebe, Sandhill Crane (occasionally), Black-billed Magpie, and Red Knot. Two birds on the list have only been recorded once in the state: Great Gray Owl and Vermilion Flycatcher.

## FIELD REPORTS—FALL 1986

CARL J. BENDORF

### WEATHER

The period was again characterized by wet, cool weather, continuing a pattern begun in September 1985. August precipitation was slightly less than normal, but records were set in the succeeding months. Even August had several storms which brought tornadoes, hail, damaging thunderstorms, and heavy rains, resulting in severe flooding. The worst of these storms occurred in western Iowa on 4 August, with storms across Woodbury County and rainfall amounting to 2.70 inches at Coon Rapids. Mid-month rainfalls were recorded as follows: 4.25 inches at Imogene, 4.65 inches at Oskaloosa, and 4.30 inches at Williamsburg. Flooding was reported along the Skunk, Iowa, Nishnabotna, and Thompson Rivers.



September was the eighth wettest September in Iowa history, with twice the normal precipitation reported. The rainiest portions of the state were in the southwest and northeast. Shenandoah recorded 3.98 inches on the morning of 19 September, while 5.15 inches fell at Cresco two days later. Dubuque accumulated 13.06 inches during the month, while Spencer recorded only 2.93 inches for the same period. Floods, hail, and high winds swept through western Iowa on 22 September. One week later tornadoes struck the central and northern sections of the state.

October, too, set records for wetness. The greatest daily and monthly rainfall was recorded at Keokuk with 4.20 inches on 3 October and 7.81 inches for the monthly total. Substantial rains on 11-12 October produced 3.70 inches at Harlan and 3.02 at Sidney in the southwest and 2.65 inches at Cresco in the northeast. Record autumn floods were reported along the entire Mississippi Valley. Traces of snow fell over the northern and eastern portions of the state at mid-month, while the first general freeze occurred across northern Iowa on 6 October. A statewide freeze covered Iowa on 13-15 October.

November was also a wet month, especially during the first two weeks. Heavy snows were reported in the north and northeast on the night of 18-19 November, with a deep accumulation at Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

The reporting period was, in general, cool and pleasant. August was a relatively cool month, although Keokuk, Keosauqua, and Rock Rapids recorded temperatures in the 90s on 25 August. Over half the state reported no days of 90° temperatures. September, too, had few high temperatures: 91° at Glenwood and 90° at Red Oak on 8 September. As reported above, October brought a general freeze to the state, but Sioux City (80°), and Rock Rapids (83°) recorded high temperatures on 7 October. Record lows in November occurred on the night of 10-11 November with -8° at Sioux City, -12° at Spencer, 0° at Waterloo, and 4° at Cedar Rapids. The remainder of November was more nearly normal in temperature and precipitation. (Weather data prepared by Jim Sandrock.)



## GENERAL TRENDS

Frequent birding at major water areas yielded good information on many of the aquatic species. Loons appeared in large numbers, and there were more than the usual numbers of Red-necked and Western Grebes. Bitterns and herons of all species were well represented. The concentration of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons in SW Iowa is becoming an annual event. All three scoter species made a big splash this fall, and most were very well described.

The good raptor migration was well documented. Both peak numbers and early arrivals were noted on the weekends of 20-21 and 27-28 September. A number of observers, especially in central Iowa, spent a lot of time tracking shorebirds; many species were caught lingering later than expected. The Des Moines River must be a major migration route for gulls, and Saylorville Reservoir is obviously one of the stopping points. The large numbers of common species brought along an amazing string of rarer birds. The late November gull watching at Saylorville was possibly the best ever in Iowa. Prior to construction of Iowa's four major reservoirs did all the water birds simply pass over Iowa? If all the reports from Saylorville, Coralville, Red Rock, and Rathbun reservoirs were deleted, the migration of water birds in Iowa would look more like it did prior to the construction of the reservoirs.

Among the passerines, the warblers made an especially good showing. Four species showed up on record early dates, and eight more on second or third early dates. Three species set record late dates; three others set second or third late dates. This extension of the known migration intervals is due, at least in part, to systematic birding and diligent record keeping by a number of observers. Note the number of peak reports that occurred during the period 18-24 Aug. A number of the sparrows also expanded their previously recorded migration intervals. Certainly there are some underlying causes in these trends. I have mentioned the effect of habitat change; weather conditions also come into play. However, try to explain the record dates for Orchard Oriole and Pine Grosbeak!

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species were all water related except for one: Pacific Loon, King Eider, Red Knot, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Rock Wren. Many of the casual species were reported: Red-necked Grebe, ibis species, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Great-tailed Grackle, Pine Grosbeak, and House Finch. A spectacular week of birding took place at Saylorville Reservoir during late November when five accidentals (of the eight seen during the period) were found along with enough hard-to-find regular species to last most people for a whole year. Two more of the accidentals were seen at Saylorville earlier in season.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented

**Pacific Loon:** Documentations were from Saylorville Res. on 1 Nov (\*SD), 22 Nov (\*RKM, \*BP, \*SD), and 30 Nov (\*PM, \*SD). It is not known whether these were all sightings of the same bird.

**Common Loon:** The first and last were from Saylorville Res. on 28 Aug and 28 Nov (SD); peaks on 1 Nov were 327 at Saylorville Res. (SD) and 100 at Lock and Dam 18 (CF, JanF).

- Pied-billed Grebe:** Adults with 4 young were at Virgin L. on 4 Jul, and were seen again on 1 Sep (ViK). Peaks were 286 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Sep (SD) and 76 at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 5 Oct (THK).
- Horned Grebe:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 25 Aug (SD) is the second earliest. The peak was 37 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (SD).
- Red-necked Grebe:** Fall sightings of this species continue with birds reported from Saylorville Res. on 29 Sep, 8 Nov, and 24 Nov (\*\*SD); Coralville Res. on 15-16 Nov (\*JF, \*TJS, \*RJH, \*THK); and West Okoboji on 16 Nov (\*ET).
- Eared Grebe:** 2 on 26-27 Aug at Big Creek L./Saylorville Res., 1 on 10 Nov at Little Wall L., and 1 on 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (all by SD).
- Western Grebe:** A record early migrant was at Saylorville Res. on 13 Sep (\*SD), and a record tying third latest was at Ames on 23 Nov (PM). At Saylorville, 1 to 3 birds were seen during the period. Other locations were Hardin Co. on 21 Oct (MPR, BPR), Muscatine Co. on 21 Oct (TLD, GDW), Carter L. on 11 Nov (DoR, BJR), and West Okoboji on 15 Nov (ET).
- American White Pelican:** 80 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 9 Aug (SD, PCP, BB). The peak of 4,400 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Sep was down to 54 on 17 Oct (SD). One at De Soto N.W.R. on 22 Nov (JF) ties the second latest.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Peaks at the four reservoirs were 2,305 at Saylorville on 14 Oct (SD), 900 at Red Rock on 14 Oct (SD, JSi), 605 at Rathbun on 4 Oct (RLC), and 600 at Coralville on 5 Oct (THK). Two were still at West Okoboji on 30 Nov (ET).
- American Bittern:** 2 were heard at L. Manawa on 5 Aug (CFS); peak was 5 at Riverton A. on 19 Sep (JLH); 1-3 were found at five other locations.
- Least Bittern:** The peak was 5 at Jemerson Sl. on 9 Aug (PCP, et al.) and at Sweet M. on 7 Sep (RLC); 1-3 were found at 5 other locations.
- Great Blue Heron:** Peaks at reservoirs were 221 at Saylorville on 18 Aug (SD), 152 at Red Rock on 6 Sep (TNJ), and 130 at Coralville on 28 Sep (THK).
- Great Egret:** Peaks were 134 at Runnels Game A. on 30 Aug (JSi) and 65 at Coralville Res. on 28 Sep (THK).
- Snowy Egret:** 11 in SW Fremont Co. on 2 Aug (RKM, SD) is a remarkable number. Others were 3 at Saylorville Res. on 18 Aug (SD), 2 at Rathbun Res. on 27 Sep (RLC), and 1 at George Wyth S.P. on 28 Sep (FLM).
- Little Blue Heron:** A peak of 20 was seen in Fremont Co. on 1-2 Aug (JF); others were 2 ad. and 2 imm. at Saylorville on 25 Aug (SD), 1 ad. at Ledges S.P. on 26 Aug (DAR fide JJD), and 1 at Rathbun Res on 27 Aug (TNJ).
- Cattle Egret:** The peak was 71 at Forney L. on 2 Aug (RKM, SD); records away from the Missouri R. were 2 in Hancock Co. on 26 Aug (JLH), 18 in Iowa Co. on 11 Sep (CJB), and 1 at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (JF).
- Green-backed Heron:** The last was at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (SD).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 adult at Big Wall L. on 1 Nov (SD) and 1 imm. at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (\*SD) approach the record late date of 4 Nov.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 15 were in Fremont Co. on 1 Aug (JF) and up to 12 were at Burlington through 23 Sep (CF, JanF); others were 2 imm. at De Soto N.W.R. on 6 Aug (TB, BP), 1 ad. and 1 imm. at Saylorville Res. on 20 Aug (SD, PM), and 2 imm. at Coralville Res. on 24 Aug (THK, CJB, TJS).
- Ibis species:** Ibises, which could not be identified as to species, were in Hancock Co. on 20 Sep (Ron Andrews, Jim Wahl fide JLH) and Johnson Co. on 25 Sep (\*JF, \*THK).
- Tundra Swan:** 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 9 Nov (SD); 150 were at Pool 9 on 15 Nov (MPR, BPR).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** The previously reported summering bird remained at IPL Ponds (m.ob.). The first migrants were at Saylorville Res. on 5 Oct (SD); 2 were at Bays Branch on 23 Nov (SD); and 3 were at Rathbun Res. on 29 Nov (RLC).
- Snow Goose:** The first were 3 at Saylorville on 21 Sep (SD); 300,000 were at De Soto N.W.R. on 15 Nov (SD).

**Ross' Goose:** 1 was shot at Forney L. on 5 Nov (Jeff Sanow fide JJD); 1 was described at De Soto N.W.R. on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe); and 11 were reported from De Soto N.W.R. on 11 Nov (RKM).

**Canada Goose:** 7,000 were seen in NC Iowa on 23 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).

**American Black Duck:** Peaks on 28 Nov were 28 at Saylorville Res. (SD) and 6 at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

**Northern Pintail:** 3 were in Des Moines Co. on 28 Aug (PCP).

**Canvasback:** 10,000, fewer than usual, were at the Keokuk Pool on 2 Nov (RCe).

**Greater Scaup:** 1 female with rounded head, large bill, and long wing stripe on 3 Nov at Ames (PM) and 1 male with rounded head and long wing stripe at Big Creek L. on 6 Nov (SD) were sufficiently well described to establish new early dates; up to 14 were at Big Creek L. until 29 Nov (SD).

**Lesser Scaup:** 15,000 were at the Keokuk Pool on 2 Nov (RCe).

**King Eider:** 2 were shot from a flock of 4 at Clear L. on 17 Nov (JLH). One bird and the head of the other were sent to Iowa State University.

**Oldsquaw:** All reports were from reservoirs—2 at Rathbun on 9 Nov (RLC), singles at Saylorville on 10 and 28 Nov (\*\*SD), and 1 at Red Rock on 18-19 Nov (EuA, EIA, MPr).

**Black Scoter:** 6 photographed at Diamond L. on 31 Oct (\*DK, \*EMi, \*DP) are the record earliest; 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (\*THK, \*TJS, \*JF) is the second earliest; 1 of 2 at Big Creek L. on 12 Nov was shot (\*SD, \*RKM, \*MPr, \*BPr). All were immatures or females.

**Surf Scoter:** 1 in Madison Co. on 11 Oct (\*EIA) is the second earliest; others were 4 at L. Manawa on 19 Nov (\*TB, \*BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Nov (\*SD), and 1 at De Soto N.W.R. on 22 Nov (\*JF). All were females or immatures.

**White-winged Scoter:** Singles were at Saylorville Res. on 19 Oct and 10-16 Nov (\*SD), at Union Grove S.P. on 10 Nov (\*BPr, \*MPr), at De Soto N.W.R. on 11, 15 Nov (RKM, SD), at Little Wall L. on 12 Nov (SD), and at Pool 16 on 17 Nov (TLD); 3 were in Dickinson Co. on 1 Nov (\*ET).

**Bufflehead:** The first was at Big Creek L. on 9 Oct (SD).

**Hooded Merganser:** 361 were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD).

**Common Merganser:** 4,000 were at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (SD).

**Ruddy Duck:** 4 ad. and 2 yg. were at Little Wall L. on 9 Aug (PCP, MLP, SD). A peak of 500 were at Keokuk Pool on 2 Nov (RCe).

**Turkey Vulture:** 30 were in Mills Co. on 18 Sep (DoR, BJR). Late birds were in Lee Co. on 28 Oct (RCe) and at Burlington on 1 Nov (CF, JanF).

**Osprey:** 1 in Fayette Co. on 4 Aug and 1 in Winneshiek Co. on 8 Aug (MAD) are a record first and third earliest. It appears that summer birds will no longer be unusual. There were 17 other reports of 1 to 6 birds, with the last on 5 Nov in Mills Co. (DoR, BJR).

**Bald Eagle:** The first was in Dickinson Co. on 25 Sep (DCH); others were widespread across the state.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Peaks on 21 Sep were 128 in Polk Co. (SD) and 108 at Grammar Grove (MPr, BPr).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Peaks were 15 at Grammar Grove on 20 Sep (MPr, BPr) and 37 in Polk Co. on 21 Sep (SD).

**Northern Goshawk:** Convincing details were given for adults at Coralville Res. on 30 Oct (TJS), at Saylorville Res. on 6 Nov (\*SD), and at Ames on 9 Nov (\*SD).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Large numbers were seen by many with the highest counts of 1,500 at Ames on 28 Sep (SD), 923 at Grammar Grove on 21 Sep (MPr, BPr), and 383 in Lee and Henry counties on 2 Oct (RCe).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Singles were reported from eight counties; 30 were seen in two hours at Sioux City on 27 Sep (DET).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 78 were seen in Polk Co. on 28 Sep (SD). Harlan's Hawks were described in Dickinson Co. on 1 Nov (DCH) and at De Soto N.W.R. on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (SD) is the third earliest.

**Golden Eagle:** Singles were reported from Cherokee Co. on 8 Oct (\*MMB) and from Story Co. on 19 Oct (\*SG); others were from the usual Allamakee Co. location.

**American Kestrel:** 42 were in Polk Co. on 28 Sep (SD).

**Merlin:** 13 were reported from 7 Sep to the late dates of 15 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (DoR, BJR) and 27 Nov at Saylorville Res. (\*PM).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 22 were reported from 17 Sep to 3 Nov, suggesting that detailed documentation is no longer needed for this species during the regular migration time. A last bird in Allamakee Co. on 22 Nov (\*FLM, \*RCe, \*THK) was late.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 was reported without details. This species requires documentation.

**Gray Partridge:** 4 in Jim Fuller's yard near the Iowa R. north of Iowa City on 7 Nov were south of their usual range.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 1 in Van Buren Co. on 12 Aug (JPS) could be an introduced bird.

**Northern Bobwhite:** The 30 reported on 24 Jul (*IBL* 56:115) were 1 ad. and 30 yg. (EuA, ElA).

**Yellow Rail:** Singles were at Larson M. on 23 Sep (\*SD) and in Greene Co. on 25 Sep (RKM).

**King Rail:** 1 was at Big Wall L. on 14 Sep (\*SD).

**Virginia Rail:** 5 were at Big Wall L. on 20 Sep (SD); 1 was at Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (JF); and 1 was at Big Wall L. on 1 Nov (SD), the third latest date.

**Sora:** 40 were at Big Wall L. on 20 Sep (SD). A fresh road-killed bird at Perry on 17 Nov (RKM) was a record late bird (except for a Christmas Count record). One at Big Wall L. on 25 Oct (SD) was also late.

**Common Moorhen:** More than usual were reported for fall with 1 at Willow Sl. on 2 Aug (SD, RKM), 6 at Union Slough N.W.R. and 4 at Big Wall L. on 9 Aug (SD, PCP, BB), 1 in Greene Co. on 10 Aug (RKM), and a second latest bird at Keokuk on 21 Oct (RCe, JF).

**American Coot:** 4,600 were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Oct (SD).

**Sandhill Crane:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Nov (\*BP<sub>a</sub>, \*SD) ties the latest date.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Aug (SD) is the second earliest; the peak of 32 was at Saylorville on 18 Sep (SD); and the last were 3 at Lock and Dam 18 on 2 Nov (CF, JanF).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** There were scattered singles and a few large flocks—188 in Polk Co. (SD) and 59 in Story Co. (HZ) on 27 Sep, and 58 in Hamilton Co. on 23 Oct (SD). A second latest was in Iowa Co. on 16 Nov (\*LH).

**Piping Plover:** 3 were at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug (SD, RKM).

**Killdeer:** Flocks of 279 in Polk Co. (SD) and 105 in Story Co. (HZ) were noted on 28 Sep.

**American Avocet:** There were 22 at Saylorville Res. on 12 Aug (SD), 3 in Woodbury Co. on 14 Aug (BFH), 4 at Coralville Res. on 15 Aug (JF), 1 at Coralville Res. on 25 Aug (CJB), 1 in Polk Co. on 25 Aug (SD), and 13 at IPL Ponds on 23 Sep (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Peak was 46 in Polk Co. on 6 Aug (SD); the last was at De Soto N.W.R. on 15 Nov (SD).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Peak was 553 in Polk Co. on 5 Aug; the last was there on 6 Nov (SD).

**Willet:** 1 was at Willow Sl. on 2 Aug (SD, RKM); 12 were in Polk Co. on 6 Aug (SD).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Singles at Lock and Dam 18 on 2 Nov (CF, JanF) and Rathbun Res. on 26 Oct (TNJ) are the second and third latest.

**Upland Sandpiper:** The only report was from Fremont Co. on 2 Aug (SD, RKM).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 in Polk Co. on 29 Sep (SD) ties the latest date.

**Red Knot:** 3 birds in alternate plumage were at Saylorville Res. on 5-6 Aug (\*\*SD, \*RKM).

**Sanderling:** 6 at IPL Ponds on 2 Aug (RKM, SD) tie the second earliest date; peaks were 49 at Big Creek L. on 11 Sep (SD) and 15 at Rathbun Res. on 15 Sep (TNJ); 1 at Cone M. on 10 Nov (TLD) ties the latest date.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The peak was 282 in Polk Co. on 5 Aug (SD); the last were 6 at Coralville Res. on 16 Oct (THK) and 1 in Polk Co. on 19 Oct (SD).

**Western Sandpiper:** Sightings were 1 at Runnels Game A. on 12 Aug (JSi), 2 at IPL Ponds on 23 Aug (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>), 2 at Saylorville Res. on 26 Aug (SD), 1 at Rathbun Res. on 28 Aug (RLC), and 2 at Ames on 30 Sep (\*SD, PM), the latter a third latest.

- Least Sandpiper:** 1 at Saylorville on 17 Nov (SD) is the second latest.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 5 were at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug (SD, RKM); 1-2 juveniles were at Coralville Res. on 8 and 27 Sep (CJB, THK); 61 were in Polk Co. on 9 Sep (SD); and 1 at Saylorville on 27 Oct (SD) is the second latest.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** The peak was 1,781 in Polk Co. on 19 Aug (SD); 1 at Big Creek L. on 18 Nov (SD) is the third latest.
- Dunlin:** The peak was 30 on 11 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak was 53 on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 at IPL Ponds on 2 Aug (RKM, SD) tie the third earliest; 4 were in Polk Co. on 5 Aug (SD); and singles were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Aug and 29 Sep (EM, SD) and at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (TJS, JF, THK).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Interpretation of dowitcher reports remains a problem. Several juvenile short-bills were reported in August as expected; however, reports of late September and early October birds indicated that the birds were heard. What was heard? What were the birds doing when they made the sound? Long-bills make a sound when flushed; short-bills usually do not. Adult birds (basic or alternate plumage?) were said to be with juveniles in late September, which is very hard to believe.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Convincing details were given for 1-2 juveniles at Ames on 27, 29 Sep (PM). Again, record late birds either went undescribed, or were said to be identified by call. Late dowitchers almost have to be juvenile long-bills molting into first basic plumage. They should be all gray except for some retained wing coverts with thin rusty edges and should utter "keek" when flushed.
- Common Snipe:** 100 were in Story Co. on 8 Nov (HZ).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 e. of Ames on 28 Sep (PM) was well described and is a record late date. Two other late birds were unsubstantiated.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** 30 were reported at Big Creek L. on 1 Sep (SD); singles were at Coralville Res. on 8 Sep (CJB), Black Hawk Co. on 25 Sep (FLM), and in Polk Co. on 4 Oct (SD), the latter the third latest.
- Franklin's Gull:** Peaks were 37,840 at Saylorville Res. on 9 Oct (SD), 1,500 at L. Manawa on 19 Oct (TB, BP, LPA), and 1,500 at Rathbun Res. on 24 Oct (TNJ). One at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (SD) is the second latest.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Peaks were 539 at Saylorville Res. on 17 Oct (SD), 100 at L. Macbride on 9 Nov (THK), and 56 at Rathbun Res. on 22 Nov (RLC). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SD).
- Ring-billed Gull:** Peaks were 6,000 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SD), 2,500 in Lee Co. on 13 Nov (RCe), and 600 at Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (THK).
- Herring Gull:** The first was at Saylorville Res. on 21 Sep; peak was 475 there on 30 Nov (SD).
- Thayer's Gull:** Birds were well documented at Saylorville Res. from 23 to 30 Nov (\*MP, \*BPr, \*RKM, \*SD, \*JF, \*FLM, \*RCe, \*THK, \*\*PM). Several first-year birds were thought to be present, but it is difficult to determine how many. After several false starts in trying to identify this bird in Iowa, it now seems likely that observers will be able to pick first-year Thayer's Gulls out of the large flocks of gulls that migrate through Iowa in the fall.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult was well substantiated at Keokuk on 20-21 Oct (\*RCe, \*JF) for the second state record. Another bird in nearly adult plumage was found at Saylorville Res. on 29 Nov (\*BLW, \*SD).
- Glaucous Gull:** 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 22 Nov (\*SD, \*BP), a record early date. At least 2 were there through the end of the period.
- Great Black-backed Gull:** An immature bird was described at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (\*SD, \*PM).
- Sabine's Gull:** A juvenile bird was seen briefly at Saylorville Res. on 5 Oct (\*SD).
- Caspian Tern:** Reported from many locations with peaks of 321 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Sep (SD) and 49 at Rathbun Res. on 20 Sep (RLC); 2 at Rathbun Res. on 19 Oct (TNJ) are the third latest.

**Common Tern:** Sightings with details included 1 at Saylorville Res. on 4-5 Aug (BPr, \*SD), 2 at Amana L. on 8 Aug (CJB), and 3 at Ames on 10 Aug (PM).

**Forster's Tern:** The peak was 82 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Aug (SD). No details were given for late birds of this and the previous species at two locations.

**Least Tern:** The peak at IPL Ponds was 8 on 6 Aug (BP<sub>a</sub>) with the last there on 23 Aug (BJR fide BP<sub>a</sub>). An adult was seen at Saylorville Res. on 21 Aug (\*SD).

**Black Tern:** A peak of 63 was at Keokuk Pool on 19 Aug (RCe). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (SD).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 in Van Buren Co. on 17 Oct (BB fide SD) and 1 on 18 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC) provide the second and third latest dates.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 2 nests were found in Lee Co. on 12 Aug and a third on 2 Sep (RCe).

**Common Barn-Owl:** 2 were in Dallas Co. on 12 Sep (RKM); up to 3 were there during the summer.

**Snowy Owl:** 1 was reported from Otter Creek M. on 8 Nov (Bruce Ehresman fide JJD), and 1 imm. was at Saylorville Res. on 13 Nov (SD, BB).

**Burrowing Owl:** 3 were in Sac Co. on 15 Aug (Larry Kropf fide JJD).

**Barred Owl:** An albino bird was in Hardin Co. on 5-8 Nov (\*JF, et al.).

**Long-eared Owl:** 2 were heard in Fayette Co. on 23 Aug (MAD); 1 was at Big Creek L. on 26 Nov (FLM, et al.).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1-3 were reported from Des Moines, Polk, Black Hawk, and Story counties.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first was in Boone Co. on 8 Oct (SD).

**Common Nighthawk:** On 31 Aug hundreds were seen in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLH), and on 1 Sep 500 were over Iowa City (CJB) and hundreds were in Story Co. (SD, EM). Record late birds were in Lee Co. on 29 Oct (\*RCe) and Ames on 19 Oct (EM).

**Whip-poor-will:** 2 were singing at Waubonsie S.P. on 2 Aug (JF); 1 was at Rathbun Res. on 17 Sep (RLC).

**Chimney Swift:** 500 were in Scott Co. on 22 Aug (PCP); 1 in Warren Co. on 26 Oct is the third latest (SD). Other last dates were 24 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe) and 21 Oct in Ames (PM, SD).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1 n. of Iowa City on 28 Oct (JF) is the third latest.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** A peak of 61 were seen in one hour in Lee Co. on 21 Sep (RCe).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2 were s. of Bellevue on 22 Aug (PCP).

**Northern Flicker:** Male red-shafted flickers were seen at feeders in Dallas Co. (RKM, EuA, ElA).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 were in Appanoose Co. on 23 Aug and 18 Oct (TNJ); 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. was a first there for Jim Sandrock who has birded the area extensively in recent years.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was 1 on 14 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SD, EM, PM); 3 was the peak on 18 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD, EM); 1 was in Van Buren Co. on 26 Sep (JPS); and 1 on 5 Oct in Dallas Co. (RKM) is the second latest.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The last was 1 in Ames on 5 Oct (PM).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** There were 8 reports with good details from C and E Iowa including 2 on 19 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPr, BPr, RRS). The rest were single birds: 19 Aug at Davenport (PCP); 21 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe); 21 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD); 30 Aug and 1, 4 Sep in Ames (PM); and 6 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (THK).

**Willow Flycatcher:** 1 on 17 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC) is the third latest.

**Least Flycatcher:** The last was a calling bird in Marshall Co. on 27 Sep (MPr).

**Eastern Phoebe:** The peak was 15 on 2 Oct in Brookside P. (PM).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 1 on 27 Sep in Brookside P. (PM) is the third latest.

**Western Kingbird:** 7 were reported in Fremont Co. on 3 Aug (SD, RKM). No reports away from SW Iowa.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 was briefly seen on 26 Aug in Ames (\*EM).

- Purple Martin:** They departed nesting boxes in Pottawattamie Co. on 2 Aug (CF's).
- Tree Swallow:** 50 were photographed as they fed on berries on 3 Aug in Louisa Co. (DoR, KO). Peaks were 1,000 on 14 Sep at Hendrickson M. (HZ); 6,500 on 28 Sep at Big Creek L. (SD); and a "million" on 21 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Tying the third latest were 2 on 3 Nov at Big Creek L. (SD).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 30 on 10 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe) are the third latest.
- Cliff Swallow:** 1,000 were at Hendrickson M. on 14 Sep (HZ).
- Barn Swallow:** The peak reported was 350 on 27 Sep in Story Co. (PM); details were given for 1 in Dallas Co. on 4 Nov (EuA, ElA), the second latest; and 2 seen flying on 10 Nov in Iowa Co. and later found dead in an old American Robin nest (LH) are the latest on record.
- Blue Jay:** These counts were taken in Lee Co. (RCe): 486 in 1 hour on 21 Sep; 361 on 25 Sep and 260 on 2 Oct, both totals during 15 minutes of driving.
- American Crow:** The roost at Keokuk was "building on schedule" with 12,000 birds on 17 Nov (RCe).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First was 1 on 23 Aug in Ames (EM).
- Brown Creeper:** 3 on 18 Aug in Des Moines Co. and 2 on 22 Aug in Jackson Co. (PCP) could have been summering birds.
- Rock Wren:** 1 was described at Cedar Rapids on 30 Oct (\*DF/HF); another was seen by many 22-30 Nov among the rocks (of course!) of the dam at Saylorville Res. (\*SD, \*BPa, \*PCP, \*JJD, \*RKM, \*PM).
- Carolina Wren:** Resident birds continue in SE Iowa with 2 on 30 Aug in Lee Co. (TNJ, RLC); 1-2 in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. through 17 Sep (JPS, CJB); and 1 on 24 Sep in Henry Co. (CF, JanF). Not to be outdone by his family, Jim Fuller had 1 in his Iowa City backyard from 15 Oct through Nov.
- Bewick's Wren:** 1 was in Lee Co. on 1 Sep (\*RCe).
- Winter Wren:** 1 on 28 Aug in Des Moines Co. was "calling and territorial" (PCP) The earliest record for a migrant is 10 Sep, but nesting records in Iowa are rare. The peak reported was 7 on 30 Sep in Brookside P. (PM).
- Sedge Wren:** 6 were still at De Soto N.W.R. on 6 Aug (TB, BPa, LPa); 6 were in Scott Co. on 20 Sep (PCP, CBl, BBl); the last was 1 on 20 Oct in Story Co. (SD).
- Marsh Wren:** The last was 1 on 25 Oct at Big Wall L. (SD).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1 on 18 Sep in Johnson Co. (JF) is the second earliest. Peaks were 45 on 30 Sep in Ames (EM) and 130 on 3 Oct in Polk Co. (SD).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 on 6 Aug in Allamakee Co. (MAD) is an early record by 10 days; the peak was 60 on 12 Sep in Brookside P. (PM).
- Eastern Bluebird:** The peak report was 84 on 12 Oct in Polk Co. (SD). Efta reports 140 fledged during summer and flocks of 30 common this fall.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** 1 on 29 Oct near Ledges S.P. (\*SD) was the only one reported.
- Veery:** In Brookside P., the peak was 4 on 21 Aug and last was 1 on 13 Sep (PM).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1 on 28 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC) is the third earliest; singles on 14 and 23 Sep were the only ones seen in Brookside P. this fall (PM).
- Swainson's Thrush:** The second earliest was 1 on 16 Aug in Brookside P. (PM); 1 on 18 Aug and a peak of 5 on 1 Sep were at Ledges S.P. (SD, EM); the last was 1 on 17 Oct in Sioux City (BFH).
- Hermit Thrush:** 1 on 21 Sep at Ledges S.P. (SD) is the second earliest; peaks were in Brookside P. with 10 birds on 10, 15 Oct (PM); 1 on 15 Nov in Emmet Co. (HW) was late for a migrant.
- American Robin:** 20 were still at Rathbun Res. on 23 Nov (TNJ).
- Gray Catbird:** Migrating birds were represented by 60 on 27 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS, RCe, JCe).
- Northern Mockingbird:** Not unexpected in S Iowa, 1 was in Appanoose Co. on 20 Sep (RLC) and 1 Nov (TNJ).
- Brown Thrasher:** 25 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Sep (JPS, RCe, JCe).
- Water Pipit:** The peak was 17 on 25 Oct at Big Wall L. (SD); 1 on 21 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SD) is the second latest.



- Bohemian Waxwing:** 4 reports are more than usual: 2 on 15 Nov in Cherokee Co. (DBi); 1 on 23 Nov at Saylorville Res. (\*SD); 1 on 27 Nov in Marshall Co. (MPR, BPR); and 1 on 28 Nov at Ledges S.P. (\*SD).
- Northern Shrike:** 12 were reported with the first on 20 Oct in Story Co. (SD); the only S Iowa sighting was 1 in Mills Co. on 28 Nov (BLW).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** 1 was in N Iowa on 5 Aug in Winneshiek Co. (MAD).
- White-eyed Vireo:** Only 3 reports, all from SE Iowa: 6 on 17 Aug (RCe) and 3 on 30 Aug (TNJ, RLC) in Lee Co.; and 4 on 14 Sep in Wapello Co. (RCe).
- Bell's Vireo:** Single birds were reported on 3 Aug at IPL Settling Ponds (BP, LPa); 14 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SD, EM, PM); and 27 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Solitary Vireo:** The first was 1 on 23 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD); peaks of 26 on 30 Aug in Ames (SD) and 15 on 30 Sep in Brookside P. (PM); 1 on 2 Nov in Burlington (CF, JanF) is the third latest.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** The last was 1 on 30 Sep in Brookside P. (PM).
- Warbling Vireo:** Last were singles on 7 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (RCe) and 8 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** 1 on 18 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD, EM) is the second earliest. A total of 17 birds were found in Brookside P. from 24 Aug to 28 Sep (PM). Reported from six other C and E Iowa counties including 1 on 5 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe) for the third latest record.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** The peak was 75 on 7 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (RCe, JPS).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** The only report was of 1 on 6 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (BLW).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** 3 on 13 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe) are the third earliest; peak was 7 on 18 Aug in Ledges S.P. (SD, EM); 2 on 27 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS, RCe, JCe) are the second latest.
- Tennessee Warbler:** The abundant status of this migrant is evidenced by peaks of 65 on 18 Aug in Brookside P. (PM); 35 on 23 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD); and 47 on 24 Aug at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RCe, JPS); the last were 3 on 19 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** A record early single was documented on 22 Aug at Ledges S.P. (\*EM, \*SD); peak was 17 on 7 Oct at Brookside P. (PM).
- Nashville Warbler:** 1 on 14 Aug in Ames (SD) is the third earliest; peaks were 37 on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD) and 25 on 30 Sep at Brookside P. (PM); 1 was in Sioux City on 25 Sep (BFH).
- Northern Parula:** A single was seen in SW Iowa at Forney L. on 15 Sep (BJR fide BP); last was 1 on 2 Oct at Brookside P. (PM).
- Yellow Warbler:** The only report was of 1 on 30 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reported in large numbers this fall; the first were 2 on 14 Aug at Brookside P. (PM); a big movement occurred on 23 Aug with peaks of 37 in Brookside P. (PM) and 72 at Ledges S.P. (SD); 1 on 4 Oct at Grammar Grove (MPR) is the second latest; and 1 on 5 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD) is the latest on record.
- Magnolia Warbler:** 1 on 12 Aug at Brookside P. (PM) is the earliest record; another on 14 Aug at Saylorville Res. (EM, SD, PM) is the third earliest; peaks were 19 on 22 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD, EM) and 13 on 24 Aug at Brookside P. (PM).
- Cape May Warbler:** This species appeared in almost unbelievable numbers this fall and the peaks were earlier than expected. Tying the second early record of 12 Aug were 1 in Lee Co. (\*RCe) and 2 at Brookside P. (PM); 1 on 14 Aug in Iowa City (JF) is the third earliest; peaks were 8 on 21 Aug in Polk Co. (SD) and 11 on 27 Aug in Ames (PM); from 1 to 3 were seen in eight other E and C Iowa counties with the last 1 on 28 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (FLM).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 12 birds, all in E and C Iowa: details were given for 1 male at Ledges S.P. on 23 Aug (SD), a record early date; single females were in Iowa City on 8, 11 Sep (\*\*JF); in Brookside P., 1 imm. or female on 13 Sep and 1 male on 17 Sep (PM); a male and female on 21 Sep at Ledges S.P. (SD); 1 female on 24 Sep in Warren Co. (JSi); 1 male on 27 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (\*JCe, RCe, JPS); 1 male on 28 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (FLM); and on 30 Sep 1 imm. or female (PM) and 1 male (SD) at Brookside P.



- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1 imm. bird on 24 Aug in Ames (EM) is the second earliest; peak was 75 on 4 Oct at Brookside P. (PM).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1 on 16 Aug in Ames (SD) is the third earliest; peak was 11 on 21 Sep at Ledges S.P. (SD); W Iowa reports were 1 on 18 Sep in Mills Co. (DoR, BJR) and 2 on 25 Sep in Sioux City (BFH).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** This species also arrived and peaked early: 2 on 13 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe) are the second earliest and 1 on 14 Aug at Brookside P. (PM) is the third; peaks were 8 on 21 Aug at Brookside P. (PM) and 25 on 23 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** 1 on 27 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS, RCe, JCe) is the second latest.
- Pine Warbler:** 1 on 21 Sep at Brookside P. had "no markings of any kind on olive back" (PM); documented birds included singles on 4 and 15 Sep in Ames and on 28 Sep at Ledges S.P. (\*\*SD) and 2 on 28 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (\*FLM). Several other reports lacked conclusive details.
- Prairie Warbler:** For the past three years birds have been found in Lee Co., and this fall 1 imm. on 12 Aug and 1 adult female on 15 Aug were observed (\*\*RCe).
- Palm Warbler:** 1 on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD) is the third earliest; last was 1 on 6 Oct at Brookside P. (PM).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Very common and very early this fall; 2 on 14 Aug in Ames (PM) are the earliest on record, 1 was still there the next day (SD); 1 at Coralville Res. on 16 Aug (JF) is the second earliest; peaks were 52 on 23 Aug (SD) and 42 on 1 Sep (EM) at Ledges S.P.; W Iowa birds were singles on 3, 13 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW) and 18 Sep at Waubonsie S.P. (DoR, BJR).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** 1 on 16 Aug at Coralville Res. (JF) is the earliest record; 1 on 21 Aug in Des Moines is the third earliest; last was 1 on 29 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Descriptive details were given for 1 on 26 Sep at Brookside P. (PM) for the second latest fall record.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** First was 1 on 13 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe); the peaks were 28 on 21 Aug at Brookside P. (PM) and 48 at Ledges S.P. on 23 Aug (SD); 2 were in Sioux City on 18 Aug (BFH); last was 1 on 12 Oct in Marshall Co. (MPr).
- American Redstart:** Peak was 19 on 23 Aug in Brookside P. (PM); last was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Oct (SD).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Last was 1 on 16 Aug at Coralville Res. (JF, THK).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 was still singing on 31 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe, RLC, TNJ).
- Ovenbird:** Migrant peaks were 7 on 27 Aug and 1 Sep at Brookside P. (PM); 1 on 17 Oct in Iowa City (THK) is the third latest.
- Northern Waterthrush:** 1 on 11 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SD) ties the third earliest; no more than singles reported elsewhere. The last was 1 found dead at Alleman on 4 Oct (SD)—this was a late bird in every sense of the word!
- Kentucky Warbler:** 4 were still in Lee Co. on 21 Aug (RCe); last was 1 on 23 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD).
- Connecticut Warbler:** 3 reports of this rare fall migrant, all singles: 27 Aug at Ledges S.P. (RKM); 13 Sep in Des Moines Co. (CF, JanF); and 27 Sep in Marshall Co. (RRS).
- Mourning Warbler:** First were 2 on 15 Aug in Ames (EM); peak was 5 on 4 Sep at Brookside P. (PM); last was 1 on 30 Sep at Brookside P. (SD, PM).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Last was 1 on 11 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Wilson's Warbler:** 2 on 15 Aug at Brookside P. (PM) tie for second earliest; 1 on 16 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK) is third earliest; peak was 7 on 4 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).
- Canada Warbler:** First were 2 on 14 Aug in Ames (SD); peak was 16 at Ledges S.P. on 23 Aug (SD); 1 on 30 Sep in Warren Co. (JSi) ties for third latest.
- Summer Tanager:** Singles were in Lee Co. on 1 Aug (RCe) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 16 Aug (JPS).
- Scarlet Tanager:** 10 were observed at Waubonsie S.P. in SW Iowa on 18 Sep (BJR fide BPa).

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Last was 1 female on 11 Oct at Big Creek L. (SD).
- Blue Grosbeak:** 3 were seen in Lee Co. in SE Iowa on 1 Aug and 2 were still present on 10 Aug (JPS, RCe, JCe). Other reports were from the usual W Iowa range.
- Indigo Bunting:** Last was 1 imm. male on 19 Oct at Big Creek L. (SD).
- Dickcissel:** 1 on 19 Oct at L. Manawa is the third latest (TB, BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>)
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** 24 were counted in Lee Co. on 8 Oct (RCe).
- Chipping Sparrow:** Last were 2 on 16 Oct in Ames (PM).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 was found dead at Alleman in Polk Co. on 4 Oct (SD).
- Vesper Sparrow:** 2 were late in Polk Co. on 30 Oct (SD).
- Lark Sparrow:** 8 were along the Des Moines R. in Lee Co. on 1 Aug (RCe); 1 on 13 Sep at Ledges S.P. (SD, JJD) ties the third latest; and 2 on 5 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK) are the second latest.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Peak was 21 on 11 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC); last were 2 on 2 Nov in Polk Co. (SD).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** Several in Greene Co. (RKM) and 6 at Big Wall L. (SD) on 14 Sep tie for second earliest; peaks of 11 on 10, 18 Oct at Coralville Res. (JF) and 8 on 20 Oct in Story Co. (SD); 1 on 15 Nov at Cone M. (JPS) ties the latest record.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 2 in Greene Co. (\*RKM) and 1 at Big Wall L. (\*SD) on 14 Sep tie the third earliest record; 1 on 19 Oct in Marshall Co. (\*RRS) is the second latest.
- Fox Sparrow:** 2 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD) are the third earliest; peak was 20 on 16 Nov in Dickinson Co. (DCH).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** First were 6 on 27 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD); peak of 7 on 19 Oct at L. Manawa (TB, BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>); last was 1 on 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Peak was 23 on 11 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Arrived early and in good numbers: 1 on 4 Sep at Brookside P. is the earliest on record, and 35 were here by 8 Sep (PM); 20 on 6 Sep at George Wyth S.P. (EM) are the third earliest; peaks were 125 in Lee Co. on 8 Oct (RCe) and 68 in Appanoose Co. on 18 Oct (RLC).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** The first was 1 on 27 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- Harris' Sparrow:** 1 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD) ties the second earliest record.
- Lapland Longspur:** First was 1 on 4 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD); peak was 1,250 on 30 Oct in Polk Co. (SD).
- Snow Bunting:** 1 was in Tama Co. on 29 Oct (NAK); Harr called them "abundant in small flocks after 4 inch snowfall" in Lyon Co. on 18 Nov; 350 were found in Clayton, Allamakee, and Winneshiek counties on 22 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).
- Bobolink:** 100 were in one migrating flock at Coralville Res. on 24 Aug (THK, CJB, TJS); 1 was found dead at Alleman in Polk Co. on 4 Oct (SD).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 was still at Cone M. on 6 Sep (CF, JanF); 110 at Big Wall L. on 14 Sep had diminished to 7 by 24 Sep (SD); a female frequented a feeder in Ames 14-19 Nov (PM, SD) for a record late date.
- Rusty Blackbird:** 300 were in Story Co. on 1 Nov (HZ).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Only 2 reports: 4 in Appanoose Co. on 16 Nov (RLC); and 1 female in Howard Co. on 22 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Since their first Iowa appearance in 1983, this species has become quite easy to find in Fremont Co.; 5 males and 4 females were near Forney L. on 3 Aug (SD, RKM); and 30 birds were seen together in a Fremont Co. pasture on 12 Sep, and 20 were there on 2 Oct (DoR, BJR).
- Orchard Oriole:** An imm. bird at L. Manawa on 19 Oct (\*TB) is a record late observation by almost 4 weeks! One was killed last year at Hinton on 22 Sep (see Dinsmore, et al. in this issue).
- Northern Oriole:** 1 was at Big Creek L. on 28 Sep (SD), also a record late date.
- Pine Grosbeak:** An imm. bird seen briefly in Ames on 24 Aug (\*EM, \*SD) was a month earlier than the previous record.
- Purple Finch:** 1 female on 26 Aug in Ames (SD) is the second earliest.

**House Finch:** 2 females were in Ames on 15 Sep (\*SD); 2 more females were at Ledges S.P. on 1 Oct (\*RKM); details were given for a female or imm. bird on 7 Sep in Ames (PM); 1-3 birds detailed earlier in Davenport were seen almost daily during the period (Harold Ray fide PCP); another male was observed in Davenport on 26 Nov (CBI fide PCP).

**Red Crossbill:** First were 2 in Ames on 1 Sep (EM); peaks were 18 on 31 Oct in Hardin Co. (MP), 12 in Des Moines on 8 Nov (RKM), and 40 at Big Creek L. on 9 Nov (SD); 1-3 birds reported from Des Moines, Boone, Harrison, Allamakee, and Black Hawk counties.

**Common Redpoll:** Only 3 reports from C Iowa during mid-Nov.

**Pine Siskin:** Widely reported with a peak of 30 in Cherokee Co. on 23 Nov (SD); 1-3 birds reported from Des Moines, Boone, Harrison, Allamakee, and Black Hawk counties.

**American Goldfinch:** A nest with 5 young ready to fledge was found on 29 Sep in Winneeshiek Co. (MAD).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Only 2 reports of single birds: 19 Oct in Johnson Co. (JS) and 15 Nov in Polk Co. (Andrea Knox fide SD).

## CONTRIBUTORS (\* = documentation only)

Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); Tanya Bray (Omaha NE); \*Marian M. Brewer (Cherokee); \*John Cecil (Keokuk); Robert Cecil (Keokuk); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); Mark A. Dietzenbach (Fort Atkinson); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Steve Dinsmore (Ames); Timothy L. Dwyer (Muscatine); Rita Efta (Auburn); Charles Fuller (Burlington); James Fuller (Iowa City); Jane Fuller (Burlington); \*Dale Fye (Cedar Rapids); \*Helen Fye (Cedar Rapids); J. Donald Gillaspey (Lamoni); \*Scott Gritters (Ames); Lanny Haldy (Amana); James L. Hansen (Clear Lake); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); Richard J. Hollis (Iowa City); Bill F. Huser (S. Sioux City, NE); Thomas N. Johnson (Centerville); Jack Jones (Sioux City); Vivian Keerbs (Mallard); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); \*Darwin Koenig (Montezuma); Hank Krause (Akron); Nick A. Kubik (Tama); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Paul Martsching (Ames); \*Edwin Miller (Montezuma); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Eric Munson (Ames); Robert K. Myers (Perry); Babs Padelford (Bellevue NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue NE); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); \*Doug Phillips (Montezuma); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); \*Doug Reeves (Boone); Doug Rose (Glenwood); James P. Sandrock (Iowa City); Conrad F. Schlemmer (Council Bluffs); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Ramona R. Sommerlot (Union); Thomas J. Staudt (Iowa City); Douglas E. Trapp (Sioux City); Ed Thelen (Spirit Lake); John Van Dyk (Sioux Center); Harold White (Estherville); Barbara L. Wilson (Hastings); and Hank Zalelet (Colo).

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Bart Ballard; Brian Blevins; Corey Blevins; Mark Dixon; Bery Engebretsen; Ken Olson; Mary Lou Petersen; Jerry L. Probst; B. J. Rose; Linda Rose; and Gerald D. White.

## COMMENT

Overall the reports submitted for this fall season were excellent. They were on time and contained a wealth of information. Thanks to all who contributed. Without you, the field reports would not be possible.

Several observers birded almost daily during the season. The resulting thorough coverage, especially of Saylorville Reservoir and Brookside Park, is well illustrated in the species accounts. A total of 1,364 sightings from 58 contributors were entered into a computer data base, sorted, and summarized in this report. An impressive total of 127 documentation forms were received.

I have several comments about various aspects of the reporting process. Most observers did a very good job of editing their own material in order to send only the valuable information, rather than just a listing every bird seen. Nearly every report was in checklist order and on a standard reporting form. When compiling a large amount of information in a short time, this is immensely helpful.

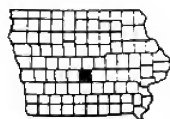
I did have several problems with the reports. The species accounts demonstrate how many early and late dates there were this season. Please be aware that a relatively common bird that occurs outside its normal time interval is a rare bird, and should be treated as such. Any bird that is way out of season should be fully documented, or it will not be entered into the record. Common birds that are reported among the three earliest or latest dates should be reported with some supporting evidence of identification. This need not be a full documentation, but it should be a brief description of the key field marks seen and heard. If an unusual sighting is presented without some evidence, the compiler cannot tell whether or not the observer made an error in entering the sighting (e.g., an incorrect date, or listing under the wrong species). If evidence is given, the compiler knows the observer was aware of the unusual nature of the record and probably took extra care in the identification.

Contributors should be clear about how many birds were seen on a given date. The best way to handle this is to state the number and date for the first, peak number, and the last seen. A report such as "2 to 10 were seen from 2 to 20 Oct" is difficult to cite. It is much better to say, "First: 4 on 3 Oct; peak: 10 on 15 Oct; last: 1 on 20 Oct." The latter data can be used.

For several years I have assisted Tom Kent with Field Reports. This time I thank him for helping compile part of the data and for writing part of the report. Suggestions for improving reports and corrections of factual information are welcome.

## RED KNOT AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEVE DINSMORE

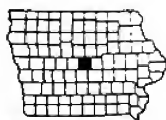


At 7:30 a.m. on 5 August 1986, while scanning the beach of the Oak Grove Recreation Area at Saylorville Reservoir, I noticed two medium-sized reddish sandpipers that were with several gulls and terns. At first I thought they were Sanderlings, but a closer view revealed that they were Red Knots. I watched the birds until 8:00 a.m. and noted the following marks. The birds were roughly the size of Killdeer, although they were shorter-legged and stockier. The throat, breast, and sides were reddish-brown. The lower belly and undertail coverts were white. The back was brown. The legs were short and yellow-green. The bill was dark, about as long as the head, and tapered to the tip. In flight, both birds showed a white rump and a white wing stripe that crossed the secondaries. These birds could not be relocated later in the morning; however, later that afternoon, Bob Myers and I found a single Red Knot at the Cherry Glen Recreation Area, about three-fourths of a mile south of Oak Grove. The bird was on a sand spit with a small flock of Sanderlings and peeps. It was similar to the birds at Oak Grove, except that there were patchy white areas on the breast, suggesting that the bird was an adult molting into basic plumage. The knot at Cherry Glen was still present early the next morning, but not later. Based on plumage differences, I believe that there were three birds. These records represent the sixth and seventh sightings of Red Knots in Iowa, with five of the records from the last three years. These are also only the second and third records of alternate-plumaged Red Knot in Iowa.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010

## MOUNTAIN PLOVER IN STORY COUNTY

HANK ZALETEL



Heavy rains fell in eastern Story County from 6 to 10 July 1986. The pre-dawn thunderstorms, fueled by southerly winds, filled the Colo Ponds, a favorite location for shorebirds (Zaletel, H. 1984. Finding water birds in eastern Story County. *Iowa Bird Life* 54:27-29). On the evening of 9 July, I left Colo at 6:30 p.m. on old highway 30 (E-41) and drove to the main ponds. The usual shorebird habitat was under water, so I continued east to the next road and turned north. After viewing several common shorebirds at the corner, I proceeded north for one-half mile to a recently ploughed field on the east side of the road where a small pond had formed due to poor drainage. On the north slope I spotted a bird that resembled a Lesser Golden-Plover, but it didn't look quite right. It had an unmarked back, similar in color to a Killdeer. Its throat, forehead, and eyebrow were white and unstreaked. Its eyes, lores, bill, and cap were black. The unstreaked breast was light, creamy-brown, while belly and vent were white. After viewing the bird for 25 minutes and comparing it with Killdeer and with Lesser Golden-Plover in breeding and non-breeding plumages, I concluded that it was a Mountain Plover. I returned home and called Jim Dinsmore and Mark Prescholdt. I met them back at the site, and they agreed with the identification.

That evening I notified a number of birders, many of whom assembled early the next morning bird. It was seen at about 7:45 a.m. for about one-half hour and remained all day. Additional features noted in the documentations from these observers included a thin, white wing stripe, white wing lining and axillars (seen by Bob Myers when the bird raised its wings), dark edge to the folded wing, dark tip to the tail, light-brown band across breast, and size larger than Killdeer and smaller than Lesser Golden-Plover. Observers emphasized the lack of markings on upperparts and underparts. The bird would disappear for up to one-half hour. Under constant observation, it was found to lie down and be perfectly camouflaged. It preferred wet waterways that led to the pond.

Tom Kent searched *Audubon Field Notes/American Birds* and bird books from various states and could find only two other records of Mountain Plover from the Midwest east of the Great Plains states: at Walton, Michigan, on 13 May 1976 (*American Birds* 30:845) and at Credit Island, Iowa, on 25 March 1964 (*Iowa Bird Life* 34:49).

715 West St., Colo, IA 50056



*Black Scoters, Diamond Lake, 31 Oct 1986. Photo by Edwin Miller.*

## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Waterloo, 6 September 1986, noon to 1 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, Secretary

*Members Present:* Carl Bendorf (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Ray Cummins, Jim Dinsmore, Phyllis Harris, Francis Moore, Bob Myers, Carol Thompson.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting of 17 May 1986 were approved as read.

#### *Committee Reports*

**Education Committee:** This committee was to have been appointed following the spring business meeting to write curriculum units for school children on aspects of birds. The committee has not yet been appointed, and President Bendorf will do so.

**Scholarship Fund Committee:** A written report was received from chairman Edwin Crocker. The committee's directive was to liquidate the Woodward Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund in an appropriate manner. The total assets of the fund are \$1,024.00. Crocker completed a survey of Iowa colleges offering wildlife biology majors and found only one that included extensive work in ornithology. The committee recommended that the scholarship money be divided among three students who are I.O.U. members: Steve Dinsmore, Mark Dixon, and Jack Holloway. It was moved (Harris, seconded by Moore) that the money be granted to the three students in equal amounts (Passed 7-0, with Dinsmore abstaining).

**Bird-a-thon:** Treasurer Moore reported proceeds of about \$1,100 from the May Bird-a-thon, with some pledges yet uncollected. President Bendorf's request for ways to spend the funds produced the following: (1) pay for outside speakers, and (2) finance an update or new publication on birding areas of Iowa. Bendorf suggested continuation of the discussion at the next Board meeting and development of a long-range plan at that time. Issues that need to be discussed are: (1) should the Bird-a-thon be continued, (2) what should be done to improve and modify it, (3) produce a definite long-range plan, and (4) obtain suggestions from Jim Sinclair for a more detailed proposal. The Board agreed with these suggestions.

#### *Old Business*

1. Planning of meetings: Copies of a *Meeting Planning Guide* by Carl Bendorf had been distributed to board members at the spring meeting for review. The Board felt that the means of distributing excess meeting funds was vague. It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Armstrong) that the surplus funds from any meeting be divided equally between the host organization and the I.O.U., and that any deficits be considered by the Board (Passed 7-0, with Dinsmore temporarily absent).

2. Invited guests' expenses: It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Barker) to pay meeting expenses of approximately \$250 for invited speaker Phil DuMont and former editor Fred Pierce (Passed 8-0).

3. Breeding Bird Atlas: The current status of the Breeding Bird Atlas project was reviewed by Doug Reeves, assisted by John Fleckenstein. Concerns expressed by the Board were as follows: (1) volunteers throughout the state feel that they are not getting enough guidance from administration, and (2) there are a number of members who could contribute who have not been approached. Reeves, who took over the project after its inception, reported increased coverage over the state this year. The data are being computerized, but this is far from complete, and a data base management system is needed. At present, the department would not be able to handle requests for information. Board members felt that the I.O.U. has a number of members who would be willing to volunteer and discussed how to encourage this. Thompson agreed to spearhead a committee to push for information from members and solicit volunteers.

### *New Business*

1. Dues: According to the I.O.U. Constitution, the Board must annually propose a dues structure for approval by the membership. Discussion was held regarding whether dues are covering expenses in view of an expanded publication format. It was moved (Cummins, seconded by Thompson) that dues remain the same as last year (Passed 8-0).
2. Free distributions of *Iowa Bird Life*: The editorial staff asked approval to distribute a small number of courtesy copies of the journal. It was moved (Moore, seconded by Myers) that such free distributions be allowed, provided a list is approved by the Publications Committee.
3. New logo: A proposed new logo was presented by Bendorf. The consensus was that a new logo is desirable. After considering a preliminary design, the board felt it needed further study.
4. Future meeting dates: The Spring 1987 meeting will be in Sioux City from 29 to 31 May. The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union will not be able to meet with us. The Fall 1987 meeting is tentatively planned for the Ames area in mid- to late October or November with Hank Zaletel and Jim Dinsmore in charge of arrangements.
5. Next board meeting: Bendorf is planning a meeting for November.

### FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Waterloo, 6 September 1986, 3:25 to 4:30 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, Secretary

*Presiding:* Carl Bendorf, President.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the Spring Business Meeting were approved as read.

### *Reports*

*Treasurer:* Francis Moore indicated that a formal report will be presented at the spring meeting. He gave a brief summary of current funds and reported that we have enough money to pay for the fourth issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. He is revising the record keeping system.

*Records Committee:* Tom Kent reported that a new field checklist will be published. He asked for discussion on the format. Consensus was that it needs to be small enough to fit into a shirt pocket. Only two members felt strongly about keeping the size the same.

*Publications Committee:* Jim Dinsmore reminded the members that the newsletter has been published for nearly a year and is doing well. The editors are constantly looking for input from members. He noted also that *Iowa Bird Life* has had a change in editorship in the last year and commended all editors for fine publications. The committee will meet tomorrow, September 7.

### *Old Business*

*Scholarship Fund:* The membership voted at the fall 1985 meeting to use the remaining money in the scholarship fund. Ed Crocker chaired a committee to accomplish this task. The committee recommended the awarding of three equal scholarships to wildlife biology/ornithology students Steve Dinsmore, Mark Dixon, and Jack Holloway, all students at Iowa State University and I.O.U. members. The Board accepted the recommendation.

*Dues:* The Board recommended that the dues structure remain the same for 1987. It was moved (Hank Zaletel, seconded by Beth Proescholdt) to accept the recommendation (passed). Apparently there has been some mis-information about institutional dues, and clarification was made that these are to be \$15.00

### *New Business*

*Upcoming Meetings:* Plans for the spring 1987 meeting in Sioux City are proceeding well. The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union will be unable to have a joint meeting with us as previously suggested. We have a preliminary invitation from Ames to host the fall 1987 meeting in mid- to late October or early November.

Bird-a-thon: Chairman Jim Sinclair reported that the Bird-a-thon held in May was very successful with approximately \$1,100 raised by seven participating teams. Over half the funds were generated from Tom Kent's two teams. The top number of species seen on a single day was 171 by Steve Dinsmore's team. A total of 214 species was seen by all teams. Funds are to be used for scientific and educational projects of the I.O.U. A discussion of how the funds might be used produced the following suggestions: (1) Tom Kent suggested the purchase of high quality slide sets from Visual Resources in Ornithology (VIREO) and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that could be used by members to give talks; (2) Hank Zaletel suggesting using funds for a revised *Birding Areas of Iowa* using a ring-binder format for easy updating. Announcements: Vice-President Jim Dinsmore thanked the workshop leaders, introduced banquet speaker Philip A. DuMont, and noted that information on the Raptor Rehabilitation Project at the Iowa State University Veterinary Clinic was available at the registration desk. Tom Kent reminded members of the most-wanted bird survey and indicated that he had more forms.

## FROM THE EDITOR

THOMAS H. KENT

My first year of editing *Iowa Bird Life* has been busy and eventful. The number of steps involved and people to interact with exceeded expectations. We have done more editing of manuscripts than anticipated. Associate Editor Jim Sandrock, with his eagle eye for grammatical construction, has been of great help in this regard. The efficient efforts of Circulation Manager Carl Bendorf and volunteer help from Iowa City birders has made the mailing run smoothly. The Field Reports editors (Ross Silcock, Bob Myers, Jim Dinsmore, and Carl Bendorf) have done their jobs well and on time. I would like to thank those who reviewed manuscripts: Carl Bendorf, Bob Cecil, Jim Dinsmore, Jim Fuller, Rick Hollis, Bruce Peterjohn, Pete Petersen, Mark Prescholdt, Jim Sandrock, Ross Silcock, Carol Thompson, and Barb Wilson. Norman Sage and Judith Pendleton continued to provide advice on the production of the journal.

The editorial staff was pleased with the amount and quality of material received and the willingness of the authors we solicited to provide manuscripts. The editorial process will be considerably easier when we receive materials sooner and have a backlog of articles to publish. We wondered whether we would be able to fill the journal, but it now appears that there will be competition for space. We had planned to have a number of short items such as quizzes, editorials, and letters. Although we have received a number of supportive letters, we have not received any sent for "publication" on various aspects of birding. If you have something to say, please send your letters and other items of interest. A big need is for high quality bird photos for the cover. Wouldn't you like to see your best bird photos on the cover of *Iowa Bird Life*?

The journal again has a new look this year. We were not entirely happy with the quality of the covers, photos, and printing, so we have changed the type of paper and selected a new printer. By printing each copy of 32 pages, including the cover, on one piece of paper we are able to save enough to provide the better quality. We will add eight pages to selected issues as materials and funds are available. We urge all members to support the 1986 I.O.U. membership drive by asking a friend to join. If we can reach the membership goal of 500 set by the Board of Directors, we can maintain and improve the quality of *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News*.